Dear Miss Margrave.

Our library will help you by sending gifts as soon as you let us know you are ready and that transportation can be found. Sincerely,

Althea Warren

May 11, 1942

Mr. J. M. Kidwell
Director of Service Division
Owens Valley Reception Center
Manzanar, California

ATTENTION: Mr. A. G. Nielsen

My Dear Mr. Kidwell:

Your letter of April 28 has been followed by several others from individuals at Manzanar. They are: Chigura Nakaja; Miss Kiyoko Matsuzania and Dick Narita. They are all eager for some sort of public library service. We librarians in Los Angeles are likewise deeply concerned in helping by any legal means in our power.

I have secured permission from the Board of Library Commissioners of the Los Angeles Public Library to send to Manzanar "discards" from our system. Because of the fact that, due to reduction in library support, we have had to close 4 branches in the present fiscal year, we have exceptionally good discards.

Of course, it will be necessary for a library room to be provided with shelving and a person who has had library training, or, at least worked as a clerk to take charge of the books. Miss Mabel R. Gillis, State Librarian, is the best person to formulate a plan of service for all the Japanese reception centers in California. Manzanar should come under the supervision of the County Librarian of Inyo County; Miss Anne Margrave and Miss Gillis have been conferring on the matter, I know.

I should suggest you presenting your plan to Miss Gillis and asking that she apply for gifts to the libraries of California. I have about a thousand children's books which we could send at once. Miss Helen E. Vogleson, librarian of Los Angeles County, has heard from you and tells me that she has written to Miss Margrave and will let me know when a way to ship these books has been found. Miss Gillis can let you know the name of a young Japanese woman who is a graduate of the University of California Library School, and is now at Manzanar. Undoubtedly she would be a fitting person to take charge of your library. I am sending a carbon copy of this letter to the 3 persons listed above who have written me urging that the Los Angeles Public Library do something to provide books at Manzanar. Awaiting your further plan,

Most sincerely,

Althea Warren
City Librarian

AW:ALC